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**Families Behind the Badge Children's Foundation Announces  
34<sup>th</sup> Annual Ben to the Shore Bike Tour**

*The FBBCF's signature fundraising event returns as an in-person ride*

**Conshohocken, Pa. – (April 12, 2021)** – The Families Behind the Badge Children's Foundation (FBBCF) will host its 34<sup>th</sup> annual Ben to the Shore Bike Tour in-person on Sunday, August 29. The Tour will return to its traditional format and welcome individuals and teams to participate in the bike ride from Philadelphia, Pa., to Atlantic City, N.J., after holding a virtual Tour in 2020.

The Ben to the Shore Bike Tour commemorates first responders lost in the line of duty – including law enforcement officers, firefighters and emergency medical workers – and serves as a fundraiser to aid families of the fallen. Donations generated by the Tour fund immediacy grants provided to the families of fallen or critically injured first responders, the FBBCF's community engagement programs and other initiatives in support of first-responder and military-personnel families in the Greater Philadelphia area.

"We are excited to announce the Ben to the Shore Bike Tour will return in 2021," said Mark O'Connor, co-founder of the Families Behind the Badge Children's Foundation. "We were thrilled so many of our long-time supporters joined us for our virtual Tour in 2020, but there is nothing quite like participating in-person in this Delaware Valley tradition. We are looking forward to getting back in the saddle while coming to together to honor and support the first responder community."

FBBCF leaders will institute COVID-19 precautions for the Tour, and they will continue to monitor local and national guidelines for outdoor events, as they may evolve in the months leading up to the ride.

The 65-mile Classic Route bike ride begins at 6<sup>th</sup> and Race Streets at the base of the Ben Franklin Bridge and concludes at the Showboat in Atlantic City. Participants also can choose to ride in the 50-mile Lite Route which begins in Berlin, N.J. From both starting lines, riders will travel through the back roads of scenic South Jersey to the finish line in Atlantic City. A virtual option is available to those unable to participate in the in-person ride.

Established in 1988, the Ben to the Shore Bike Tour is the FBBCF's signature fundraising event. It has grown with over 2,500 cyclists participating annually on average and raising a total of \$1 million for the families of fallen or critically injured first responders in the region.

To register for the Tour or to learn more about the Families Behind the Badge Children's Foundation, please visit [www.fbpcf.org](http://www.fbpcf.org).

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#### **About the Families Behind the Badge Children's Foundation**

The Families Behind the Badge Children's Foundation (FBBCF) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit committed to honoring first responders and their families while bridging the gap between the youth in communities and police officers in the Greater Philadelphia area. The Foundation benefits the families of all first responders, including law enforcement officers, firefighters and emergency medical workers, by providing tangible, direct support to grieving families of fallen or critically injured first responders when they need it most. The Foundation also works to cultivate healthy and safe neighborhoods where there is mutual respect and trust between police officers and the citizens they serve through community engagement and youth programming.